Death Of Flier Called Suicide By Garrison

Conspiracy probe caps stormy career for Garrison... **[P. A 4.]**

New Orleans, Feb. 23 (AP)—District Attorney Jim Garrison hinted today that free-lance pilot David W. Ferrie carried to his grave some secrets about President Kennedy's assassination.

Ferrie, 48, who described himself as a psychologist and private detective as well as a flier, was found dead in his bed yesterday.

Garrison, the 6-foot-6 gun-toting prosecutor, called the death "apparent suicide."

The coroner, Dr. Nicholas Chetta, said tests were not complete but death seemed due to a massive brain hemorrhage, with no sign of suicide except a curious, unsigned, undated note saying death was a "sweet prospect."

Ready To Talk

Ferrie was on the brink of producing information that could have been important, said Garrison, whose assassination probe—started long after the Warren Commission finished its work—has created an international sensation.

"We felt that he was really now ready to talk candidly, to contribute to this important investigation," said Garrison. "Now he's gone and it will be much harder to make the connections between certain people. But I'm sure we'll make them anyway.

"I'm just as optimistic today as I was two days ago."

Had Vowed Arrests

Two days ago, Garrison was insisting that his effort to prove a conspiracy in the assassination of President Kennedy will result in arrests and convictions.

The President was shot in Dallas November 22, 1963. Garrison insists that a conspiracy to murder him was conceived in New Orleans.

No "credible evidence" of a conspiracy was found by the Warren Commission, which said Kennedy was killed by Lee Harvey Oswald—a former New Orleans resident—acting alone.

Temporary Hideout

Garrison said his office had planned to take Ferrie into custody early next week. Because Ferrie had expressed fears for his life, Garrison said he provided him a temporary hideout at a motor hotel here.

"Evidence developed by our office had long since confirmed that he was involved in events culminating in the assassination of President Kennedy," Garrison said.

Dr. Chetta said the time of

[Continued, Page A 3, Col. 4]

:VENING SUN, BALTIMORE

D.A. Hints Pilot Knew Secrets Of JFK Death

[Continued From Page A 1]

Ferrie's death had to be before 4 A.M. yesterday because of the rigor mortis condition. However, a newsman for the Washington Post, George Lardner, said he had visited with Ferrie in his apartment until that hour.

Called Mystery

Garrison said the conflicting statements constituted "one of the mysteries we don't understand.

In a copyrighted story appearing in today's Washington Post, Lardner said Ferrie "seemed in good spirits, not like a man about to kill himself" at the time they talked.

"Ferrie said he never knew Oswald and had no recollection of ever having met him," Lardner reported. He said Ferrie told him that Garrison's inquiry would turn out to be a "witch hunt."

Turned Over To FBI

Ferrie was brought into the scope of the assassination probe within 72 hours after Kennedy was slain November 22, 1963. Garrison said he pulled Ferrie in for questioning at that time and subsequently turned him over to the FBI, which took a statement and released him.

A New Orleans florist, Edward Voebel, had seen Lee Harvey Oswald's picture on television and reported that he and Oswald had served in a Civil Air Patrol squadron under Ferrie. When authorities sought to question Ferrie, they found he had gone to Texas.

Vacation Trip

Ferrie said recently that he and two friends took a short vacation trip to Texas the day of the assassination "on the spur of the moment." He said they visited Houston, Galveston, Texas, and Alexandria, La., before returning home. They did not go to Dallas, he said.

And Ferrie said he and Voebel were in separate CAP squadrons. Ferrie said he never knew Oswald. A native of New Orleans, Oswald lived in New Orleans the summer of 1963.

Garrison said Ferrie's name figures in 40 pages of Warren Commission material — 36 of which he said are classified secret and unavailable. In Washington, it was reported that nineteen of the pages were available for public examination.

Mrs. Oswald Shocked

Mrs. Marguerite Oswald, mother of Lee Harvey Oswald, said she was amazed that Ferrie had not been interviewed by the Warren Commission.

"I'm shocked and dismayed that another life may have been forfeited by lack of a thorough investigation," she said in Fort Worth, Texas, after learning of Ferrie's death.

A New Orleans police detective, Frederick S. O'Sullivan, told the Warren Commission he knew of no evidence that Oswald was acquainted with Ferrie. However, the district attorney hinted that he was close to finding a thread connecting Ferrie and Oswald.